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1. The Rudnik forests and the neighboring forests of Dobra-Nisko and Count Potocki, were the remains of the former Sandomirskaya Puscha (Sandomir Virgin Forests). They extended from Sandomir to beyond Lezaysk, with Rudnik in the center. Before 1930, these were wild, impenetrable forests with many wild animals and birds. This is attested to by the names which remain, such as: Bawolina, Niedzwiedzi, Grad, Wielka Barts, Zwierzyniets, Swiniokhlewy, and others. By 1941, much of the forest had been cut down and the former wilderness had disappeared. However, there still remained a few areas of dense woods such as: Charny Las, Wielkie Borki, Zwierzyniets, Sherokie Pole, and Ostrowy. Undoubtedly these, too, have been thinned out by now.
2. The forests stretched in a direct line northwest to southeast of the San river, along the Looz-Sandomierz-Rudnik-Lezaysk-Przemysl railroad and highway.
3. Prior to 1944, the estate of Rudnik, or Dobra-Rudnik as it was commonly called, was the property of Count Hieronim Tarnowskiy. During the German occupation 1940-44, the forest was used by the German "Luftwaffe". In 1945 the Soviets nationalized all of it. West of Dobra-Rudnik lay the property of Baron Franke, Dobra-Nisko. Although a German, he was not in good graces with the German government. In 1940-44 his entire estate was occupied and partially destroyed, by the "Luftwaffe". To the east of Dobra-Rudnik was the largest estate of all, that of Count Potocki. It was nationalized by the Soviets in 1945. The administrative seat of the Potocki forests was in Lancut.
4. In area, Dobra-Rudnik was approximately 5000 hectares of which 1000 hectares were under tillage and the remainder was wooded. Dobra-Nisko was approximately 12000 hectares and the Potocki estate about 10 times as large as the above two combined.

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5. The entire area of Dobra-Rudnik was flat country. Even hillocks were rare in this area. The lower layer of soil was sandy. In spots there was a thin layer of low-grade iron ore. The upper layer consisted of good, sandy, soil with vegetable mould, very fertile for trees and perfect for pines. In places where the soil was very sandy and not fertile, only dwarf pines grew. Where the soil was light and heavy clay, oak and other deciduous trees grew well. The most fertile areas were the strips along the Sanj; these were called "rendzinas".
6. In the entire area the predominant growth consisted of common pine trees (*Pinus silvestris*). They accounted for 70 to 80% of the total, and were prominent in clean growths. Other coniferous trees were spruce and fir, either in groups or in mixed growths. Occasionally there were clusters of larches (*Larix Europea*; *Polonica*) which grew very well. Other variants of pines were "Banka" (*Pinus banxiana*) and the so-called American common pine (*Weymouth-Pinus strobilis*). Deciduous species, growing in groups or singly, were two types of oaks (*Quercus pendunculata* and *sessiliflora*, more of the first), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) alders (in low lands) and hornbeams (*Carpinus betulus*). Hornbeam and aspen (*Populus tremula*) were very rare. Fairly common was birch, in clusters and in growths of young pine. Elms (*Ulmus*) and Accacias (*Robinia Pseudocacia*) grew singly.
7. Most common shrubs were the bushthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*) black lolac, Fig (*Sambucus nigra*) Hawthorn, (*Crataegus*) cornel, (*Cornus*) willows, osier (*Salix*) laurels (*Daphne Mezereum*) and others. Berries, herbs, flowers, and mushrooms were also plentiful. The most common berry was the black bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*). Others were red berry (*Vaccinium vitis idaea*) bog bilberry (*Vaccinium uliginosum*) Scotch heather, and Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*). Prevailing flowers were the lily of the valley, and orchis. There was a variety of herbs and many mushrooms, some edible.
8. The system of forest management used in these areas was chiefly that of artificial reforestation. Pines, spruce, fir, and larch were planted as well as oak. This system produced the best results. Because the soil was solidly covered with moss and grass, it was not propitious to natural forestation. In widely scattered areas wild boars dug up the soil and some trees would sow naturally, but even then it was necessary to make corrections. Forestation was carried out in the oldest growths. After surveys, trees that were damp, pitchy and mushy were cut down. After the land was cleared of cut trees, rows 1.20 meters apart were dug by hand hoes. Where the terrain was suitable, it was plowed by horses. Pine trees were then planted at 0.30 meter intervals.
9. Approximately 500 workers, mostly girls from nearby villages, were hired annually to cultivate the forests. They were paid 0.70 to 0.90 zlotys for a 10-hour day. The work of digging ditches, making fences, and constructing buildings was done by workmen on piece work. They earned about 2 zlotys (US\$0.40) per day. For cutting trees, from 800 to 1,000 men were hired. These did not work for money, but for the waste, stumps, tops, and branches. They had to cut the trees, clean them of branches, saw them into designated lengths, peel the bark (occasionally) dig up the stumps, and take the fuel wood to the highway or railroad and there stack it in piles. The wood was removed from the cuttings by horse-drawn carts. Timber was taken directly to railroad stations or saw mills. The saw-mill that serviced Dobra-Rudnik was located in Letowia, next to the railroad station. It was modern and had the latest equipment. Other saw-mills were at Niska, Krzeszow, and on the Potocki estate. Either the owner or the buyer would then pay according to the type, weight, distance of travel, and the cubic measurements. The rate was 1.50 to 4.00 zlotys per cubic meter.

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11. The Dobra-Rodnik forests were subject to many natural and man-made-harmful damages, such as bark destroying beetles, moths, forest animals, winds, droughts, tree diseases, mushrooms and lichens, and fires. Trees most affected by all causes were pines.
12. Most common of the insects was the bark destroying beetle, the resin midge (Szeleniak Smolik) and the "Cetyniec sosnowiec" both large and small *Myelophilus piniperda*. The "mun" tussock moth (*Lymantria monacha*) and the "poproch cetyniak" (*Supalus pinarius*) also appeared in large numbers. The only way to combat these insects and moths was to collect and burn them.
13. Damage to trees by animals was difficult to combat. Does would gnaw the tops of young fir trees and deer would de-bark young (6-10 year old pines) with their antlers. Boars uprooted Weymouth pine plantings. The only solution was to shoot the animals or to fence the woods.
14. People damaged the forests by thefts, carelessness with camp fires, and dropping cigarettes. Fires were also caused by passing railroad locomotives. Violent winds sometimes caused great damage. Once in 1943 a wind storm uprooted 2,000 cubic meters of timber in five minutes.
15. Of all diseases, the most menacing were the root fungus and the pine fungus (*Trametes Radiciperda* and *Trametes Pini*). The shortage of proper sprays to combat tree diseases was seriously noticeable.
16. The Rudnik forests were traversed by one railroad line, the Rozwadiw-Przeworsk line, and by two highways. These were the Rozwadiw-Przeworsk and the Rzeszow-Rudnik. Both were good gravel roads that had been improved by the Germans during 1940-43. The highways were wide enough to permit free movement of motorized troops and heavy duty combat vehicles and strong enough to support a sufficient load.
17. The main forest products were ship masts, telephone and power poles, construction lumber, and mine supports from coniferous trees. Oak floorings, rail ties and wagon shafts, ash veneer and lumber, alder veneer and lumber, and posts from the acacia, were forest products from deciduous trees. A major by-product was resin. Other products of the area were: Strawberries and raspberries, mushrooms, and iron ore in small quantities. Construction lumber, called "budulec", was sent by water down the San to the Vistula to Gdansk (Danzig). It was only roughly trimmed, partly crowned.

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18. A large resin products factory was located in Rudnik. It was called "Jarot" and was under the direction of French engineers. It was destroyed in 1939 and only partially rebuilt by 1944. The factory produced colophony, turpentine, and wood oils from pine stumps brought from Rawa-Ruska. Two smaller resin products factories were in Garbatéc and in Kremiawec. Other industries in the area consisted of basket weaving, reed furniture, and willow flower holders.
19. Dobra-Rudnik was once very famous for its annual (Nov) wild boar hunts. Guests from all over the world took part in this event. The forest management usually furnished about 200 persons plus 25 vehicles to assist in the hunt.
20. The population of Rudnik was predominantly Polish with a scattering of Jews and a few small Ukrainian settlements. Notwithstanding the common enmity between the two people, the Poles and the Ukrainians got along very well.

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